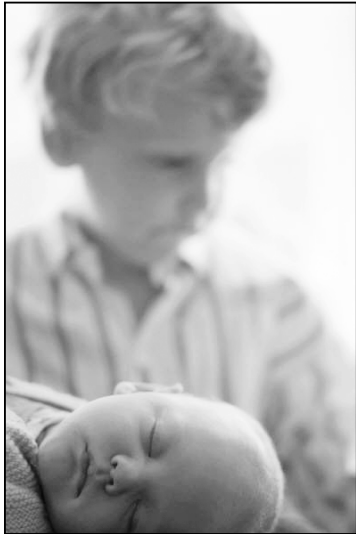


HOW METH EXPOSURE IMPACTS PREGNANCY AND BIRTH

Meth use during pregnancy increases a mother's blood pressure and heart rate, increasing the risk of premature delivery or spontaneous abortion. Toxins from meth can cause birth defects and stillbirths.



Meth also constricts blood vessels in the organ that helps nourish the developing baby. It results in reduced blood flow, reduced oxygen and nutrient supply to the fetus. Meth passes through the placenta and

can elevate a baby's blood pressure. This can lead to prenatal stroke, as well as damage to the heart or other major organs. It can also slow or alter fetal growth.

At birth, babies exposed to meth are frequently very sleepy for the first few weeks, often not waking to feed. They are often jittery, irritable and have a shrill cry. Some infants have withdrawal symptoms and need treatment.

**If you know someone who's
using or making meth
call the Meth Hotline at
1-800-742-9333**

**IF YOU SUSPECT CHILD ABUSE
OR NEGLECT CALL
1-800-652-1999**

**YOU HAVE THE POWER TO
PROTECT A CHILD**

"It is permissible to disclose protected health information to a public authority or other appropriate government authority by law to receive reports of child abuse or neglect."

Federal HIPAA Privacy Law

ADA/EOE/AA

NEBRASKA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM



www.hhss.ne.gov

METH HURTS KIDS TOO



**You Have the
Power
to Protect a Child**

DID YOU KNOW?

- Methamphetamine (known as meth) is second only to marijuana as the most widely abused drug in the world. It is the most prevalent synthetic drug manufactured in the United States.
- Meth is made with low cost materials, such as anhydrous ammonia, drain cleaner, lithium batteries, and engine starter fluid.
- Children are more likely than adults to absorb meth lab chemicals into their bodies because of their small size and higher rate of metabolism.

WHAT IS METH?

Meth is a highly addictive stimulant that can be smoked, snorted, injected, or taken by mouth.

The manufacture of meth exposes people, animals and the environment to toxic and explosive chemicals. Because the manufacture and use of meth may result in adults neglecting children in their care, the drug is becoming a factor in many child protective service cases.

The users, particularly during the withdrawal phase or "tweaking" phase, may experience psychosis and commit acts of extreme violence.

HOW ARE CHILDREN AFFECTED?

Parents using meth often do not supervise children's activities and hygiene. They may not provide enough food or good nutrition. Children may go without appropriate medical attention. Meth users can be abusive and violent to their own children.

Meth labs are often accompanied by problems such as domestic violence, severe physical neglect, emotional neglect and sexual abuse.

Hazardous living conditions and filth are common in home-based meth labs.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS THAT A CHILD IS BEING EXPOSED TO METH LAB CHEMICALS?



Teachers, child care staff and other individuals who work with or care for children exposed to chemicals associated with meth labs may, or may not, observe a variety of symptoms, including:

- Watery eyes or discharge from the eyes
- Eye pain including burning
- Skin irritation, redness or mild to severe burns on the skin
- Sneezing, coughing or difficulty breathing
- Congestion of the throat
- Vomiting, nausea or diarrhea
- Hallucinations
- Extreme irritability
- Signs of severe neglect such as poor cleanliness, being underweight, frequent injuries, etc.
- Moderate to severe headache